GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:46
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2001
ERADICATION OF AIDS/HIV
DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA;PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken serious note of the fear expressed in the Special Session of UN Assembly on AIDS;

(b) whether India is one of the affected countries;

(c) if so, the facts thereof;

(d) whether there is an alarming increase in the incidence of AIDS/HIV in the country;

(e) if so, the number of HIV/AIDS patients detected during each of the last three years, State-wise and Union Territory- wise;

(f) whether mother and pregnant women are required to be provided special care;
(g) if so, the proposals received by the Government to provide more funds to States for the above purpose; and
(h) the specific action plan to make future generation AIDS free?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR)

(a)to(h): A statement is laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 46 FOR 25.7.2001

(a) to e) The Government has taken serious note ofthe fears expressed in the special session of UN Assembly/AIDS. Nationwide sentinel surveillance conducted during the years 1998, 1999 and 2000 reveals that there is no upsurge in the spread of HIV infection in the country. The number of estimated HIV infections are

1998	-	3.5 million
1999	-	3.7 million
2000	-	3.86 million

It is a fact that in terms of the total number of HIV infections, India is second after South Africa. However, the rateof transmission is still low which has been estimated to be about 0.35%. The nationwide sentinel surveillance indicates that States like Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Manipur, Nagaland, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, HIV infection amongst antenatal women is more than 1%, while in other States/UTs, it is substantially at low level.

There is gross under-reporting of AIDS casesin the country mainly due to reluctance of medical and para-medical professionals to admit such cases in hospitals, and because of the social stigma associated with the disease. However, based on the number of AIDS cases reported by State AIDS Control Societies, State and Union Territory-wise distribution of AIDS cases is at Annexure-I.

(f) to h) The Government of India has initiated feasibility study on prevention of mother to child transmission by administering antiretroviral drugs to HIV positive pregnant mothers in selected eleven centers inthe five high prevalence States namely Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Manipur. The responseof the antenatal mothers is found to be encouraging. The performance report of feasibility study on prevention of mother to child transmission up to the month of May, 2001 is placed at Annexure-II.

The Government of India has already initiated the School AIDS Education Programme. It is aimed to cover all the secondary and higher secondary schools in the country during the five years of the National AIDS Control Programme (NACP Phase-II) and it is proposed to cover 20% of all schools during the current financial year. A school manual `Learning for Life` has been developed and distributed by National AIDS Control Organisation to State AIDS Control Societies for using it in School AIDS Education Programme in the country.

For college & university students, the University Talk AIDS Project is being implemented in collaboration with National Service Scheme of Department of Youth Affairs and Sports. The project involves creating awareness amongst students and youth on issues related to HIV/AIDS through organizing workshops, seminars and written material especially designed for them. For out of school youth, the services of Nehru Yuvak Kendras are being used in creating awareness amongst rural youths.

ANNEXURE-I

NATIONAL AIDS CONTROL PROGRAMME, INDIA AIDS CASES DURING THE YEAR 1998 - 2000

S.No	State	1998	1999	2000
1	Tamil Nadu	532	2730	3866
2	Maharashtra	824	64	279
3	Karanataka	39	47	541
4	Manipur	0	61	344
5	Madhya Pradesh	76	116	279
6	Gujarat	2	1	245
7	Delhi	13	0	64
8	Uttar Pradesh	16	41	93
9	Chandigarh	0	124	93
10	Kerala	1	0	56
11	Rajasthan	25	27	53
12	Pondicherry	9	0	0
13	Punjab	48	52	31
14	Assam	3	11	62
15	Nagaland	0	19	43
16	West Bengal	0	0	0
17	Orissa	0	0	49
18	Andhra Pradesh	7	2	0
19	Haryana	0	0	47
20	Himachal Pradesh	0	16	15
21	Bihar	0	0	36
22	Goa	0	7	10
23	Mizoram	0	7	3
24	A&N Island	0	0	9
25	Meghalaya	0	0	0
26	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	0
27	Sikkim	1	0	0
28	Daman & Diu	1	0	0
29	D & N Haveli	0	0	0
30	Arunchal Pradesh	0	0	0
31	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
32	Tripura	0	0	0
	Total	1597	3325	6218

ANNEXURE-II

PERFORMANCE REPORT OF FEASIBILITY STUDY ON PMTCT UPTO MAY 2001

Total New ANC attendance : 149004

No. of pregnant mothers counselled : 115090 (77.24%)
No. of pregnant mothers accepted HIV tests : 84531 (73.45%)
No. of Pregnant mothers detected HIV positive : 1540 (1.82%)
No. of Pregnant mothers enrolled for AZT prophylaxis
No. delivered with AZT : 507
No. of PCR Samples at 48 hrs. tested : 484
No. of samples tested +ve : 38 (7.8%)
No. of PCR samples tested at 2 mths. : 283
No. of samples tested +ve : 20 (7.07%)
No. of infants on breast feeding at 2 mths. : 74 (14.6%)